

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SY-05 MCT-01

TRSE-00 L-03 /033 W

----- 105511

R 031424Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1354

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EC

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: STATE 212490

1. EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR RELAYED CONTENTS OF REFTEL TO GOE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION COL. CARLOS GUDINO, IN CONVERSATION AUGUST 30, AND FOLLOWED UP WITH A LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL EXPRESSING THE SAME POINTS ON SEPTEMBER 1.

2. COL. GUDINO SAID HE BELIEVES CURRENT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS ARE ADEQUATE BUT, HAVING ONLY BEEN RECENTLY APPOINTED TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, HE WAS NOT AS RELIABLE INFORMED ON THAT TOPIC AS HE WOULD LIKE TO BE. HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER, AND THAT HE MIGHT WISH TO REQUEST ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE FORMS OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM THE FAA AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL. HE PROMISED AN EARLY DEFINITIVE RESPONSE WHICH WOULD GIVE HIS VIEWS ON THE CURRENT ADEQUACY OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT ECUADOR'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS, HIS VIEWS ON WHETHER IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE FAA TO PROVIDE

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ASSISTANCE, AND AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER

ECUADOR HAS YET RATIFIED THE 1970 HAGUE AND 1971 MONTREAL CONVENTIONS.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT THE QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL AIRPORTS ARE NOT NEARLY AS FOOLPROOF AS THEY COULD BE, AND THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR UNSCREENED PERSONS TO MINGLE WITH SCREENED PASSENGERS IN THE TRANSIT LOUNGES. AT LEAST ONE EMBOFF RECENTLY ENTERED THE TRANSIT LOUNGE IN QUITO BY PROCEEDING DIRECTLY THROUGH AN OUTDOOR CORRIDOR BETWEEN THE MAIN TERMINAL BUILDING AND THE TRANSIT LOUNGE WITHOUT BEING STOPPED BY AN AIRPORT AUTHORITY ALONG THE WAY, ALTHOUGH AFTER ARRIVING IN THE TERMINAL HE WAS APPROACHED WITHIN ONE MINUTE BY A GUARD AND REQUESTED TO LEAVE.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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